RE: OUST National Biofuels Team
Prentiss Searles
to:
Jack Hwang
10/25/2012 02:43 PM
Hide Details
From: Prentiss Searles <Searlesp@api.org>
To: Jack Hwang/R3/USEPA/US@EPA,

That is the hypothesis for now.

From: Hwang.Jack@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Hwang.Jack@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 2:40 PM
To: Prentiss Searles
Subject: RE: OUST National Biofuels Team

Yes. We take notice on one of the conclusions; Ethanol was found in the fuel/water samples suggesting cross contamination of ethanol into ULSD by trucks. Jack

Jack Hwang
US EPA Region III in Philadelphia
215-814-3387 (Phone); 215-814-3163 (Fax)
hwang.jack@epa.gov

Prentiss Searles ---10/25/2012 01:35:28 PM---Thank you for the information Jack. Did you see the report that was done by Battelle hypothesizing

From: Prentiss Searles <Searlesp@api.org>
To: Jack Hwang/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 10/25/2012 01:35 PM
Subject: RE: OUST National Biofuels Team

Thank you for the information Jack. Did you see the report that was done by Battelle hypothesizing the cause of metals in ULSD storage and dispensing systems? If not, it can be found on the front page of www.clean-diesel.org.
Prentiss

From: Hwang.Jack@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Hwang.Jack@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 10:43 AM
To: Prentiss Searles
Subject: Re: OUST National Biofuels Team

Prentiss,

It's nice to hear from you.

I oversee two research projects: (1). Forensic analysis (contractor - Battelle) and (2) Impacts of Microbes (EPA ORD). In late August we sent out notification to ASTSWMO and ten EPA Regional offices asking them to spread the word and inviting the tank inspectors to partner with EPA National Biofuels Team.

(See attached file: UST Biofuels Research - Notification Plan_Aug12_Final.docx)

(1) Forensic analysis of failed or degraded components from UST systems. We hope to identify one or two UST components (tank, pipe, submersible turbine pump and associated components, etc.) that failed or is severely degraded, and for which we have reason to believe the failure or degradation had something to do with the materials in the component being incompatible with the fuel.

NOTE: We do not anticipate that we will be able to perform a large number of forensic analyses with the amount of funding we have, so each project suggested to us will be carefully considered and weighed against other potential sites.

- Must physically obtain the equipment (or, in the case of tanks or piping, a section of it) and send it to a forensics lab. The lab will work with the site owner to collect additional information and samples, and perform analytical testing on the failed component to understand the failure mechanism.
- Targeting sites in which the tank owner is willing to cooperate with the contractor by providing information, fuel samples, and possibly the failed UST component.
- Outcome will be a report detailing the failure and providing a theory of what caused the release.

(2) Impact of microbes on UST equipment. Specifically, we are going to test a theory that microbes can live in tanks that contain water, and some of these microbes may be producing metabolic by-products that can degrade UST system materials.

NOTE: Due to the limited number of available test kits, EPA anticipates being able to work on 1-2 sites per month.

- Need to identify sites with water in the bottom of the tanks. EPA will send out a test kit, with instructions detailing how the inspector or another individual should collect samples from both the fuel and the aqueous dense layer (a.k.a. “water bottom”) in the tank.
- Inspector or another individual will send the test kit back to EPA's Kerr Center in Ada, OK, for analysis.
- Outcome of this project will be a report describing the correlation between tanks with water bottoms and the kinds of microbes that thrive there. This project may also inform us what additional research is needed related to microbial growth in tanks and how microbes affect compatibility.

For both of these projects, we will need to rely on UST inspectors or others in the field to help us identify candidate sites for testing. Forensic analysis project: failed or severely degraded UST equipment. Impact of microbes project: fuel and water samples from tanks with water bottoms. EPA will cover the cost of shipping and will provide detailed shipping instructions for anyone who wishes to participate in this study.

We know UST inspectors see softening of plastics, degradation of fiberglass tanks, and corrosion of metallic UST components in the field, and want to invite you to share your knowledge and experience by participating in this research. Although this research is limited to a very small number of actual tank sites, we would like to understand how prevalent or limited the scope of your issue is, so please continue to let us know about unusual situations you see in the field – and send photos if you are able. Please share this with your inspectors, and let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Thanks. Jack

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Prentiss Searles ---10/25/2012 10:06:44 AM---Good morning Jack, about a year ago we met and you were forming an OUST Team on National Biofuels th

From: Prentiss Searles <Searlesp@api.org>
To: Jack Hwang/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 10/25/2012 10:06 AM
Subject: OUST National Biofuels Team

Good morning Jack, about a year ago we met and you were forming an OUST Team on National Biofuels that supports our national effort and collectively serves as a resource for all ten EPA Regions and Headquarters about UST issues associated with biofuels and other alternative fuels. I just wanted to check in to see what projects the Team is working on and to ask what the schedule is for those projects. I would be interested in anything that you could share.
Regards,
Prentiss

Prentiss Searles, CAE
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-----Original Message-----
From: Hwang.Jack@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Hwang.Jack@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 4:35 PM
To: Prentiss Searles
Cc: Bruce Bauman
Subject: Blender Pump

Prentiss:

Thank you very much for meeting with me and share with me about potential issues related to blender pumps for biofuels.
What are the findings of recent API's studies on this subject? When will the study reports available?
Thanks again. Jack

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